



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue #3

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

19 May 2011

Cotton/Soybean Insect Scouting Schools

We will have an insect scouting school for cotton and soybeans at the Edisto Research and Education Center (EREC) on 2 June (2 weeks from today). EREC is about 2-3 miles West of Blackville, SC, on Hwy 78. The training and lunch will be free, and there will be handouts and some giveaways available. **In order to plan for lunch, please email me (green4@clemson.edu) by 27 May (end of next week) with how many you will be bringing to the training.** We are planning to offer another school in June and will be announcing that shortly.

Cotton/Soybean Insect Scouting School (2 June 2011)
Edisto Research & Education Center near Blackville, SC
9:30 AM – 1:00 PM (Registration – Adjourn)

Pest Patrol Hotline

There is a toll-free hotline for updates on insect problems. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #3 for the Southeast and select #1 to hear my message. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

News from Above the Lakes

At least one industry representative informed me that “thrips sprays are underway” above the lakes.

News from Below the Lakes

Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Dorchester and Berkeley Counties reported that he has seen some cotton planted with an insecticide seed treatment needing treatment for thrips. Jonathan also confirmed kudzu bug in both Dorchester and Berkeley Counties this week. Marion Barnes, county agent covering row crops in Colleton County found kudzu bug in Colleton County. See the updated distribution map below in the soybean section. Also, several consultants are talking about the spraying they are doing for thrips in cotton.

Cotton Situation

As of 16 May 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 49% of the crop being planted, behind where we were last year at 61% but equal to the 5-yr average. Despite the cool nights and morning, conditions were again described as warmer than average for the past week. The overall soil moisture levels in the state were described as 6% very short, 26% short, 64% adequate, and 4% surplus. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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Thrips in Cotton

How long should we continue to monitor and treat for thrips? Most evidence supports that plants remain susceptible to thrips injury until the 4-5-leaf stage. After that time, little is gained by spraying for thrips. Before you get to that growth stage, consider an application for thrips if you have 2 or more thrips/plant and immatures are present, especially if feeding injury is showing up on the new leaves. As you know, this is an easy call if you are going over with an herbicide application but more difficult for sprays dedicated to just insecticide delivery. The cool temps that we have experienced this past week have slowed the growth rate quite a bit. So, injury symptoms could be very prevalent now, particularly if the at-plant preventative insecticide is no longer providing systemic suppression/control of thrips. It is expected to warm back up by this weekend (95°F on Sunday here?), so cotton will again start to “outrun” thrips.



Burrower Bugs Again?

In late May of 2007, we experienced an odd occurrence with burrower bugs on cotton seedlings. A crop consultant in Burke County, GA, and Dr. Phillip Roberts, entomologist with UGA, sent me these photos of burrower bugs on cotton seedlings. There are plenty of this species out now, and I have seen some on cotton recently, so be aware. The [whitemargined] burrower bug, *Sehirus cinctus*, typically is found above the ground level on plants where it feeds frequently on nettles and mints. Henbit was likely in the field below not too long before this cotton emerged. Apparently, these bugs feed on the only green plants around (here cotton) when all else is dried down. It was reported that the seedlings in these shots all had Avicta Complete Pak seed treatment at planting. Seemingly, the seed treatment was killing a significant number of them because they were dying on the plants. Something else to keep an eye on during early season.



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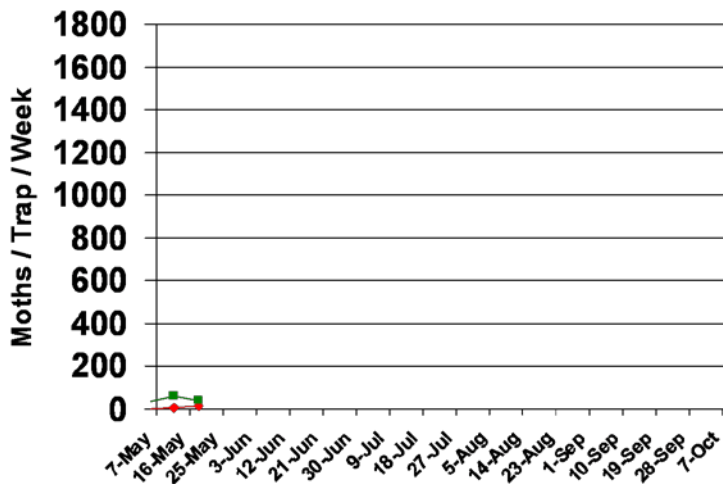
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



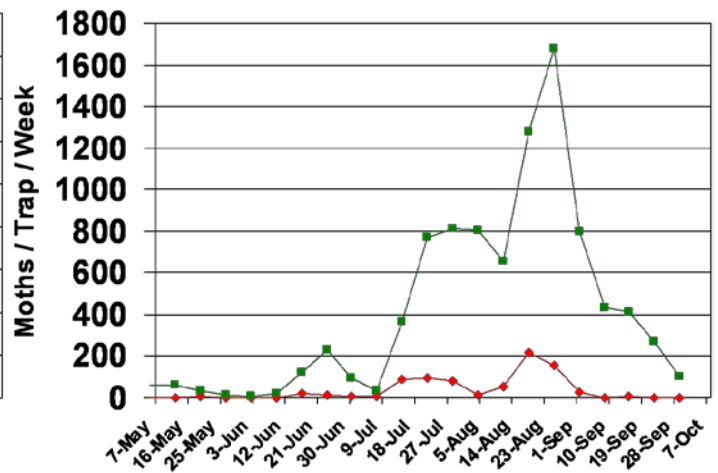
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC last season and this season are shown below. We are about where we were last year with numbers captured in traps. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2011



Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010



Cotton Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

Soybean Situation

As of 16 May 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 34% of soybeans as planted, a little ahead of where we were last year at 32% and well ahead of the 5-yr average of 22%. About 12% of soybeans have emerged, compared with 23% last year and 9% for the 5-yr average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

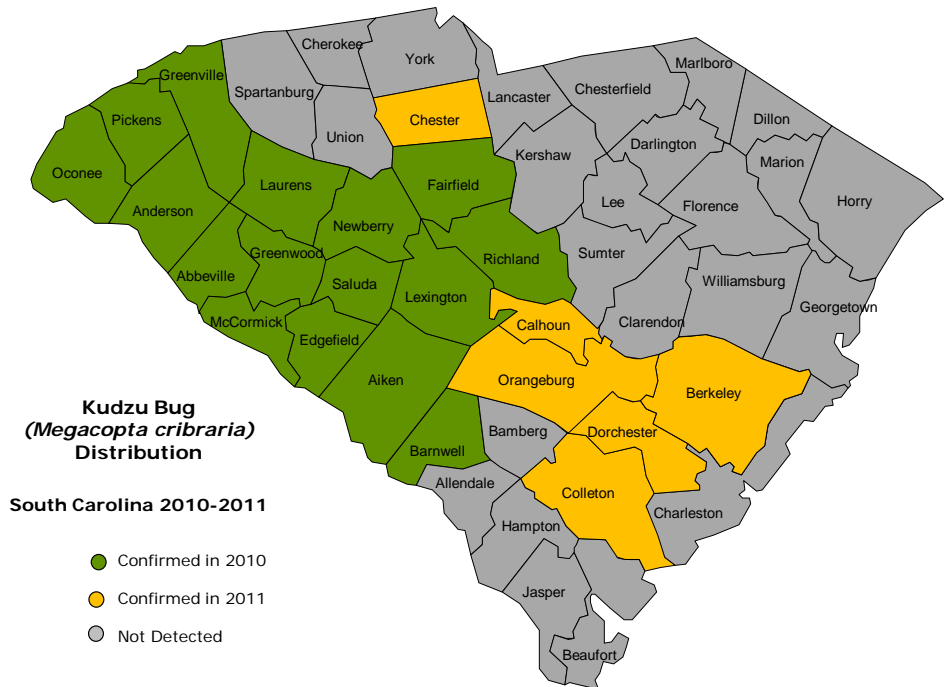
The kudzu bug (a.k.a. bean plataspid), *Megacopta cribraria*, continues to spread in SC and the Southeast. We have it confirmed in 22 counties in SC. ***It has been found on kudzu and/or soybeans in these counties, but it will feed on legumes in general, so it could be on other hosts, and it might be present but yet to be detected in other counties.*** Any sampling assistance in unconfirmed areas will be a big help. The best place to look for these pests is in/around kudzu. If you want to help document new county finds of this pest, digital pictures or specimens preserved in alcohol are important documentation to get from infested areas. ***Please email/send that information to me only if the infestation is in SC and is a new county observation.***



Eggs

Nymphs

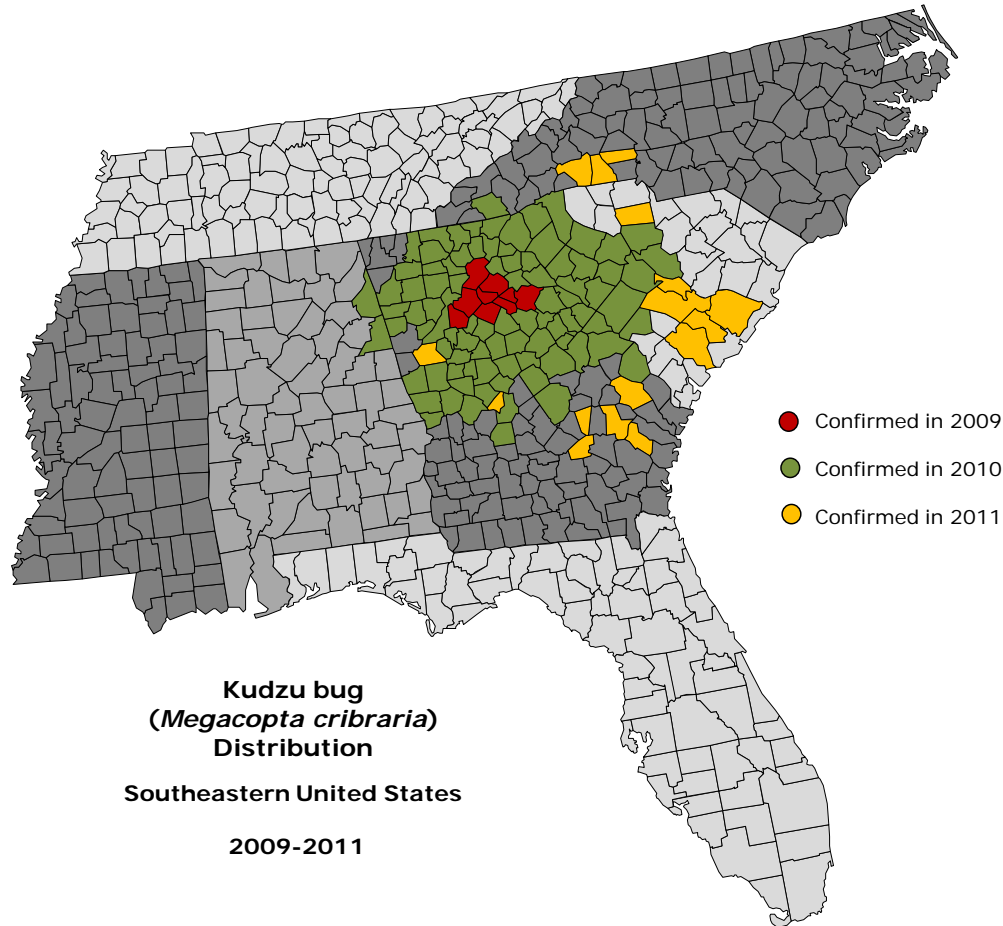
Adults



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Soybean Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

Pest Management Handbook - 2011

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2011 Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Need More Information?

Log on to the following web pages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

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For more cotton and soybean information:

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/>

For past newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>

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